

(E83-10125) LANDSAT-D: THE NEW ERA OF
EARTH RESOURCES SURVEY (General Electric
Co.) 12 p HC A02

N83-15739

CSCL 22B

Unclassified
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NASA

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

The Future

Landsat-D represents a transition to the future, a progressive development of space technology toward an operational system for global resource management. The task of assessing the earth's renewable and non-renewable resources from space will be advanced through higher efficiency of the Landsat-D system. A new spacecraft and a new sensor, the Thematic Mapper, will be flown. An improved, high performance ground data processing system will go on line and specific pilot research projects with global implications will be undertaken. To aid the diverse community of users in making the transition to the improved system, the Multispectral Scanner also will be carried by Landsat-D. This sensor also will provide more than a half million scenes to investigators and resource managers around the world. These new, more cost-effective system will expand to global dimensions, the kind of information needed by decision makers concerned with the future of a nation.

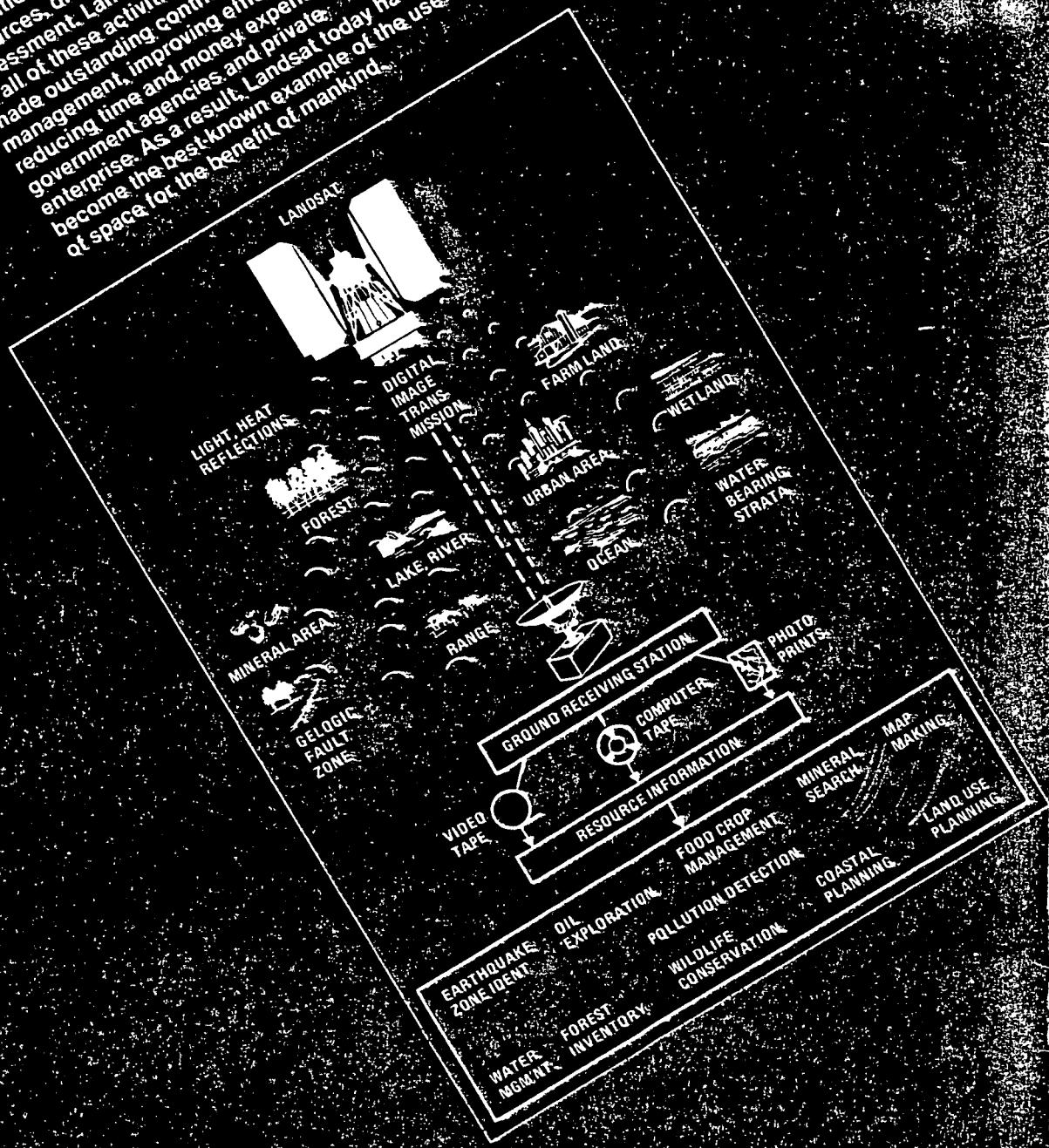
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The Benefits

Multispectral resource data collected by Landsat spacecraft undergoes a transformation to become useful resource information. The data is processed by computers for analysis format, each scene displayed in an image format, each scene covering more than 13,000 sq. mi. The images contain information important for surveying, soils, estimating crop acreage and yield, measuring timberlands, range and yield, water resources, mineral and oil exploration, land use planning, population, environmental protection, marine and coastal estimation, monitoring marine and air resources, disaster warning and assessment. Landsat data has been applied to all of these activities. The program has made outstanding contributions to resource management, improving efficiency and reducing time and money expenditures for government agencies and private enterprise. As a result, Landsat today has become the best known example of the use of space for the benefit of mankind.



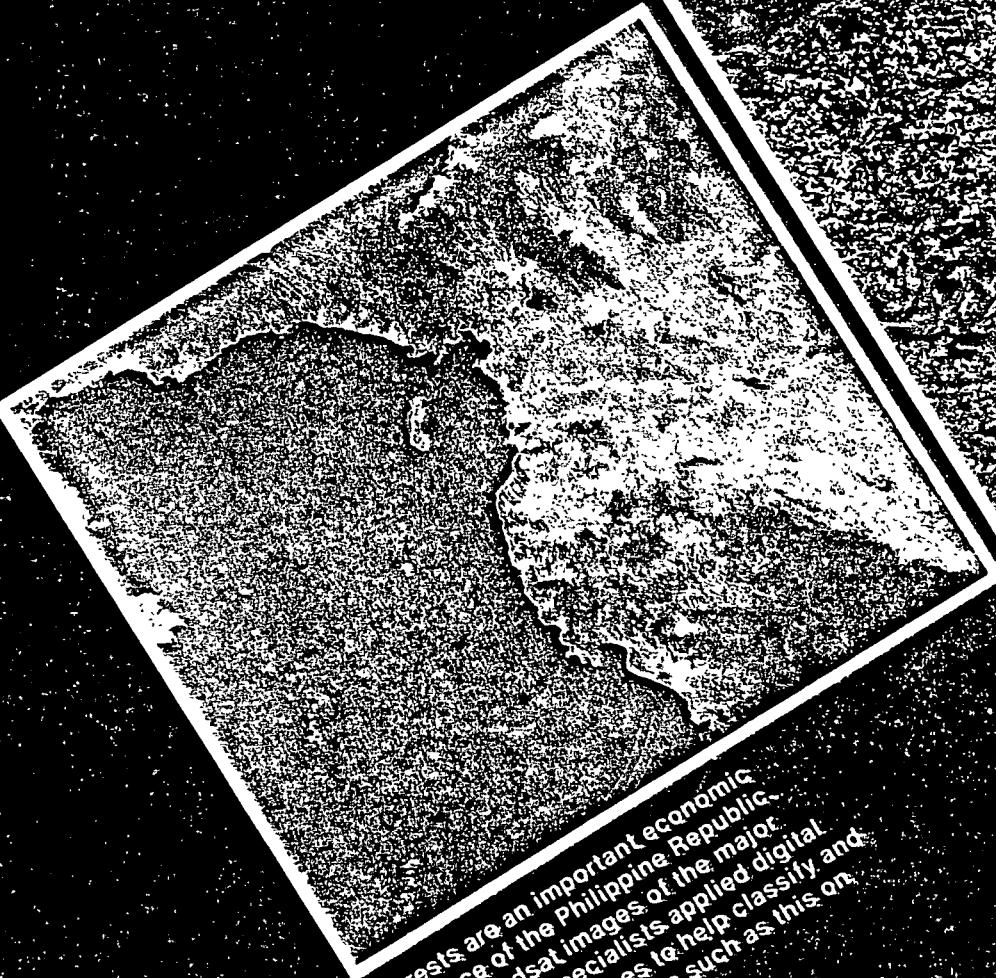
The Program

The Landsat program began in the 1960's with a concept to survey the earth's resources from a platform in space. A research effort was begun to develop remote sensing instruments and a proven satellite to test the feasibility of the concept was selected. The first Landsat was orbited in 1972 and was equipped with two experimental sensors that scanned the earth's surface from an altitude of 570 miles. These sensors produced multispectral data on water, soil, vegetation and minerals, for analysis by 200 scientific investigators in the U.S. and 100 in 30 other countries. By 1974, the Landsat program had generated more interest and application over a wider range of scientific disciplines than any other space program. Within six years, Landsats 2 and 3 were orbited; more than 100 nations were applying the experimental sensor data to resource management, and Canada, Italy and Brazil were receiving the data at their own ground stations.

Made available under NASA sponsorship
the interest of early and wide dissemination of Earth Resources Survey
information and its utility.



Original photography may be purchased
from EROS Data Center
Sioux Falls, SD 57108



Forests are an important economic resource of the Philippine Republic. Using Landsat images of the major islands, GE specialists applied digital analysis techniques to help classify and inventory forest areas such as this one in Mindanao.



April in Paris, from Landsat in orbit is shown in this image enhanced by GE's Washington-based Digital Image Analysis Laboratory. Landsat images contain information that meets the eye.



GE specialists used digital analysis techniques to classify land use from this Landsat image of the Los Angeles, California area. Use is coded by color: yellow, residential; light blue, commercial; red, industrial; dark blue, water; dark green, forest; parks and golf courses, brown; brush and tan, barren areas.

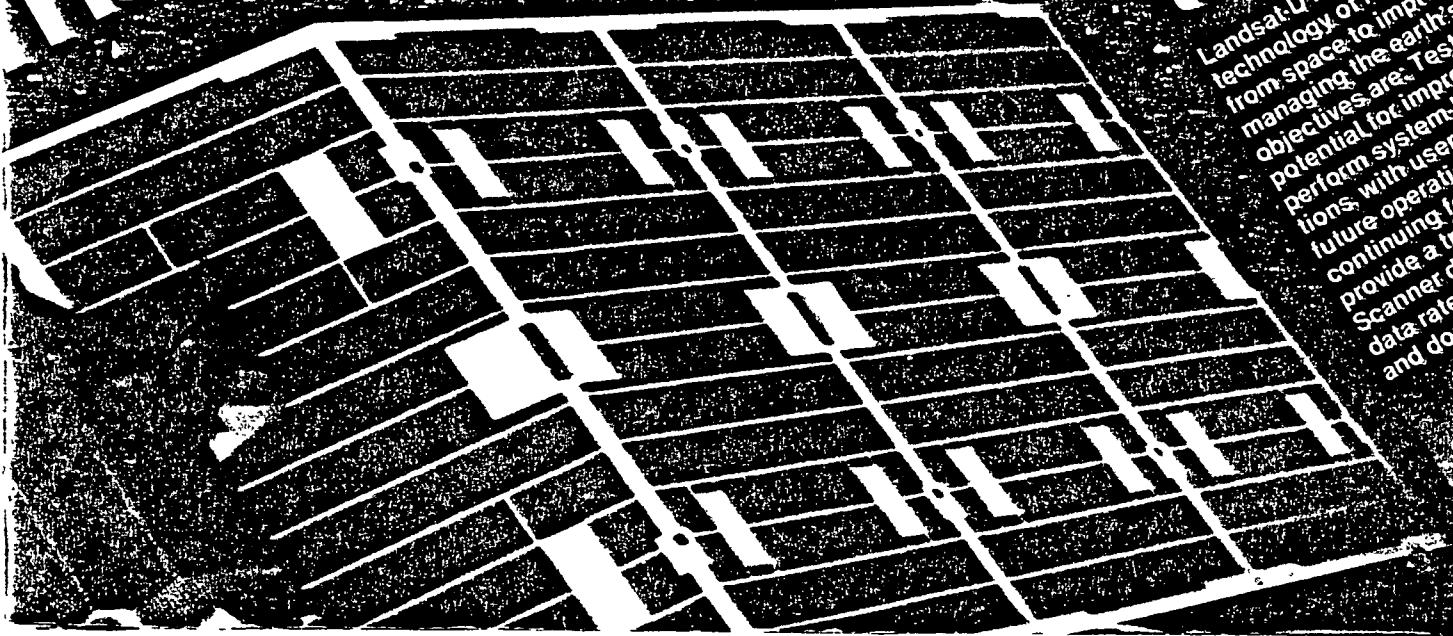
Winnipeg, Canada, a city of 250,000 people is revealed clearly in this August 1974 Landsat image.

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Landsat-D

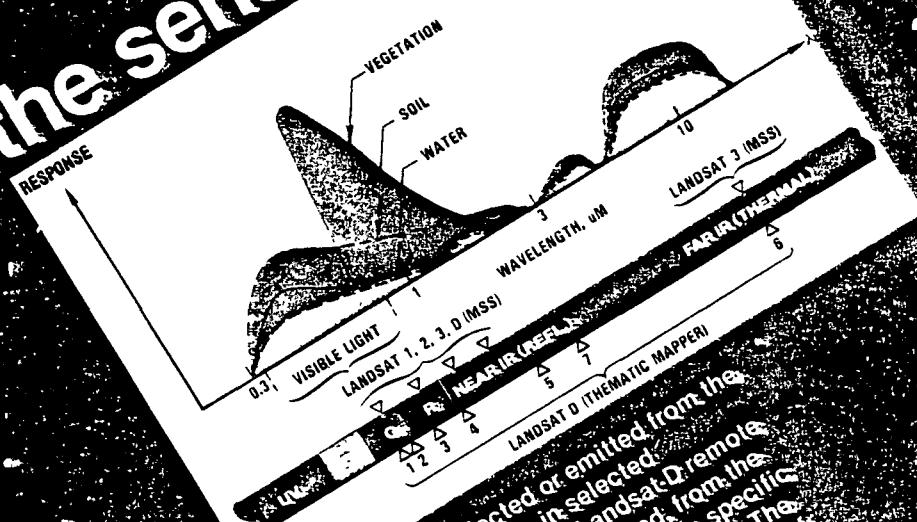
cursor to an operational system for global resource management



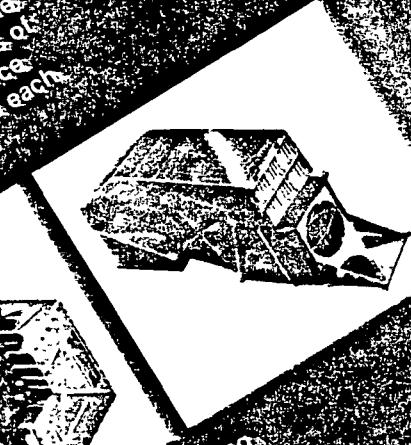
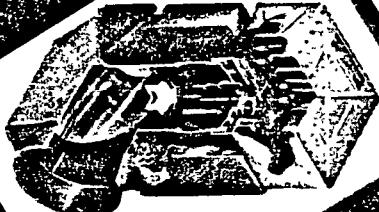
the mission

Landsat-D is designed to advance the technology of remote sensing of the earth from space to improve man's capability to manage the earth's resources. The objectives are: Test the mission potential for improved resource management system-level capabilities, with user participation; future operational system-level capabilities, continuing foreign participation; provide a transition path for the Scanner data to the Thematic Mapper; and domestic use of the Thematic Mapper data rate of the Thematic Mapper.

the sensors

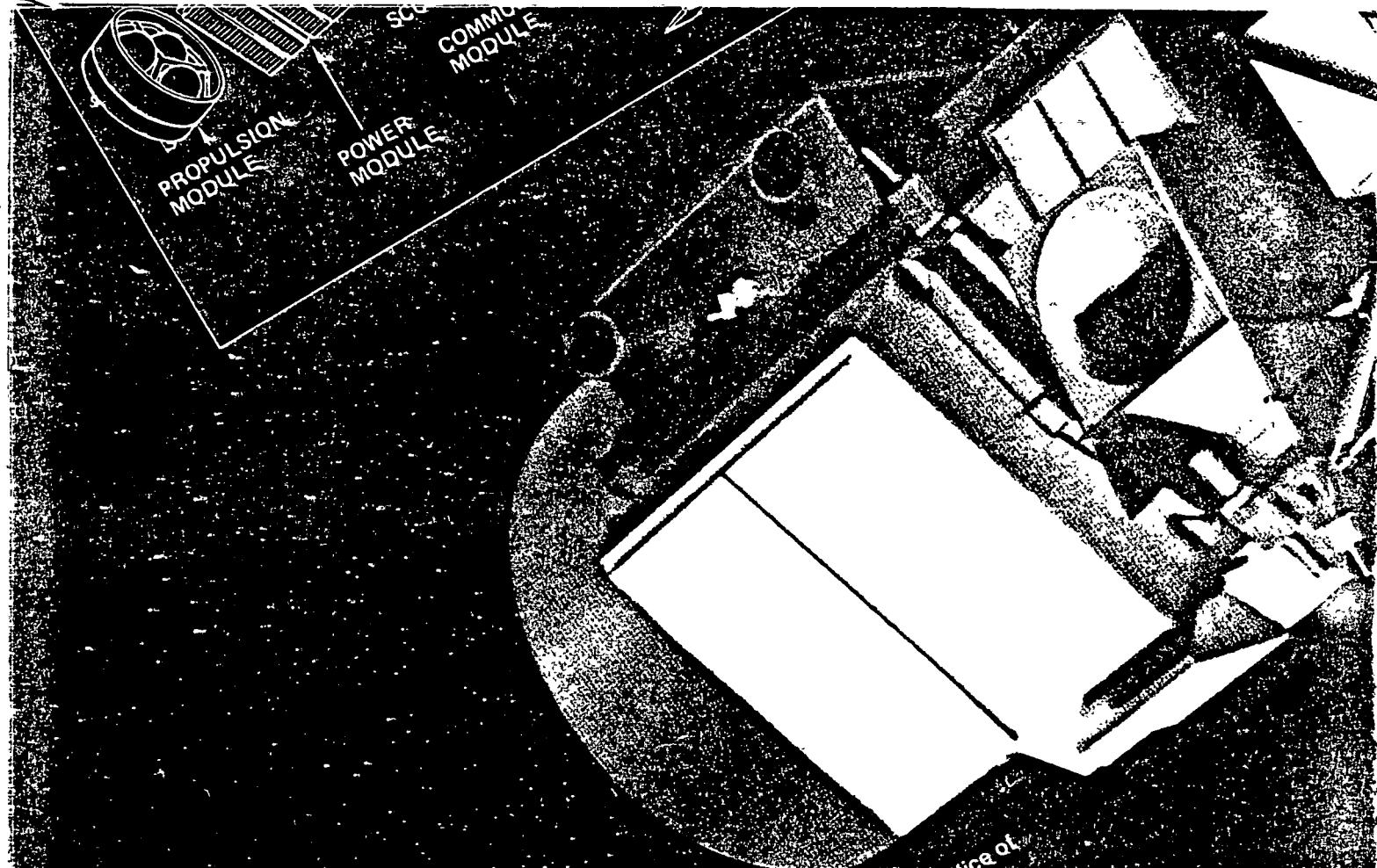


Light and heat reflected or emitted from the earth will be picked up in selected wavelengths or bands by Landsat D's remote sensing instruments. Each band, from the visible to the far infrared, contains specific information about the earth's surface. The sensors are "tuned" to the wavelengths of vegetation, soil, water and other surface materials to collect the spectral data each reflects.

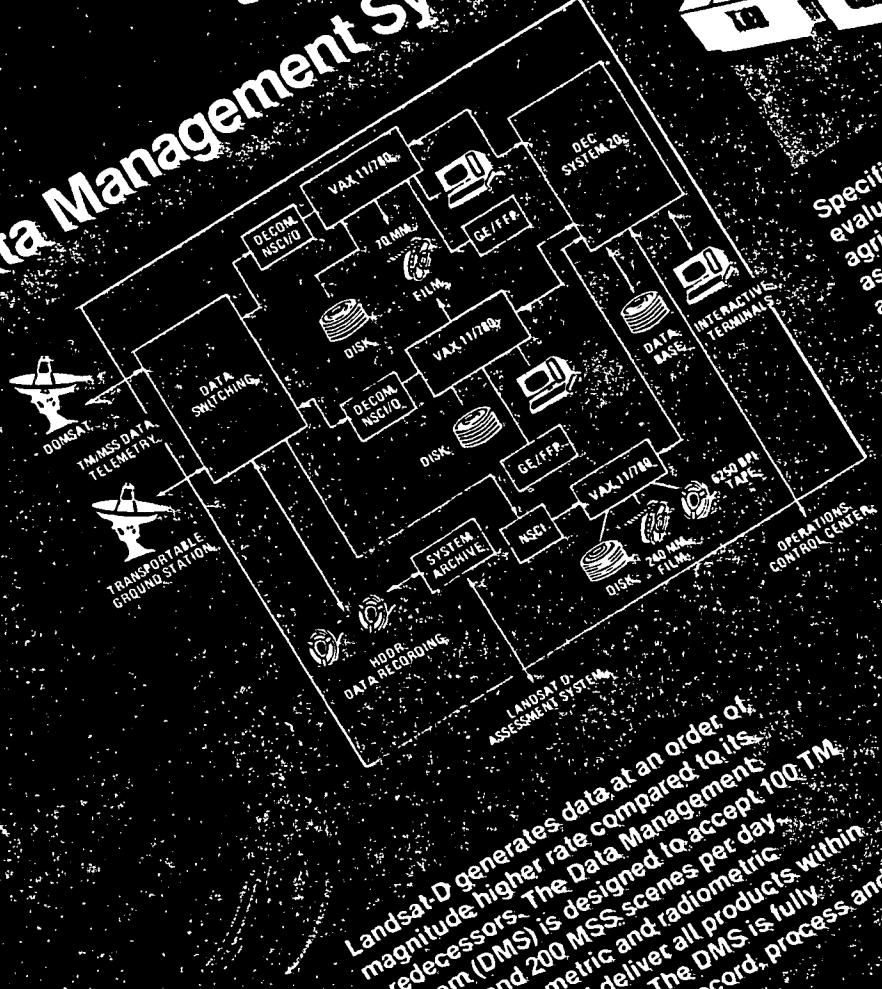


Landsat D will carry two remote sensing instruments: Thematic Mapper (TM) is an experimental sensor designed to view scenes with 30-meter resolution. It has four channels. The Multispectral Scanner (MSS) has four channels and is identical to the one on Landsat 3. It will take 800 scenes a

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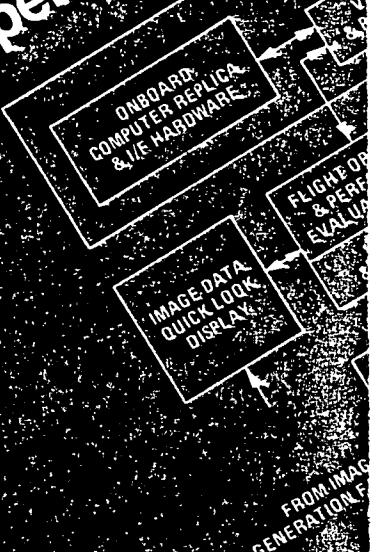
Landsat is a program of NASA's Office of Space and Terrestrial Applications, managed by the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. The General Electric Space Company Space Division as such is the mission contractor and as such is responsible for Landsat D spacecraft design, integration, and test, the Data Management System, Landsat Assessment System and the Operations Control Center.



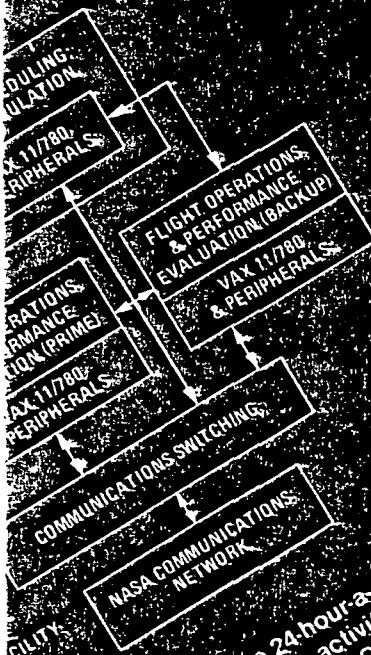
Landsat D generates data at an order of magnitude higher rate compared to its predecessors. The Data Management System (DMS) is designed to accept 100 TM scenes and 200 MSS scenes per day, perform geometric and radiometric corrections, and deliver all products within 48 hours of receipt. The DMS is fully automated to display, record, process, and store image data.

Operations Control

Operations Control



Flight Center



Segment of Landsat D is a 24-hour-a-week continuing activity performed at the Operations Control Center (OCC). Daily operation is scheduled according to user product and coverage requests, instrument and spacecraft status, communications network availability and environmental conditions.

the flight segment

Landsat D will be launched into a sun-synchronous, polar orbit approximately 700 km (435 statute miles) high by a Delta 3910 vehicle. Spacecraft attitude control will keep the Thematic Mapper and Multispectral Scanner continuously pointing toward the earth throughout each orbit. Spacecraft position in orbit will be determined using the Global Positioning System. Sensors will be programmed from the ground, based on user data requests from Landsat D via a Ku-band link to a Tracking and Data Relay Satellite (TDRS) in a geostationary orbit, and then from TDRS to the NASA White Sands, N.M. ground station. The data will then be relayed from White Sands via domestic communications satellite to the Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md. Data will also be transmitted directly from the satellite at X-band for TM and MSS data and S-band for MSS data to Goddard and foreign ground stations.

new provides a seven special Scan 80-meter resolution sensors on Landsats. have the capacity to generate day (550 MSS, 250 TM) for all ground stations, compared to 190 MSS scans from Landsats 1, 2 or 3. Each scene covers 13,225 sq. miles.

Flight Segment Specifications

Structure

Length — 14 ft (4 m).
Width — 7 ft (2 m).

Spacecraft

Weight — 3800 lbs (1725 kg).

Solar Array

Area — 147.4 ft² (13.6 m²).
Power — 2 kw (25°C BOL).

High Gain Antenna

Diameter — 6 ft (1.8 m).
Mast height — 12.5 ft (3.7 m).